lawyer's opinion that she is "perfectly sane, and he would not allow [her] to remain longer here." Again she claims she "must think of [her] future" and that it will be compromised if she remains any longer as the Asylum "is not the place for either social or business advancement." The euphemistic and cliche language exploits something like a myth of recovery and reformation which it would have been contrary to the interests of the authorities to dispel very directly. A letter from the Trinity Home to which she is eventually released indicates that she spends her time playing the piano, doing fancy work, shopping, socializing, returning visits, etc. A career was out of the question and she appears to have known it. With the mixture of criticism and flattery that marks most of her correspondence with the doctors, she concludes by thanking Forester and his colleagues "for any medical attention I have received here" but also reminding him that she urgently wishes to leave "this week or next if possible." Her gratitude is always implicitly contingent on her release. Her praise is contingent on its implicit advice being followed.

On September 30 1907, Mrs. Brown writes to Mrs C. in pencil that her husband "had [her] put in the Insane Asylum, Sept. 30." She makes statements similar to the preceding, especially that she has not seen her husband since she was admitted to Dr. Myers's hospital on July 1. She wonders if the doctors have had something to do with his abandoning her in what she calls a "living tomb," the misery of which "cannot be described or imagined." Since realizing where she was, she has spent her time constantly crying and praying. But she would rather absolve her husband of any responsibility, that confront the possibility that he has abandoned her himself.

One of the earliest letters in Mrs. Brown's file, dated October 4 1907, was written for her by Miss Adams, her ward-mate. In a few lines scrawled in the upper left-hand corner, Miss Adams describes herself "writing in an almost dark room, as there are no lamps or lights in the rooms." Through Miss Adams, Mrs. Brown writes an "admission narrative" of how her husband brought her to Dr. [Campbell] Myers's hospital, where she was kept for thirteen weeks at thirty dollars a week but "was doing well" when her husband decided to remove her to a much cheaper room in the Asylum.

Wanting to believe that her husband would not knowingly have buried her alive, Mrs. Brown naturally wonders if he might have died himself. It is not